



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **NORTH KANSAS CITY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL CHILD PORN CHARGES**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a North Kansas City, Mo., man has pleaded guilty to the possession, receipt and transportation of child pornography.

**John A. Schafer**, 58, of North Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey on Feb. 4, 2004, to all four counts of a federal indictment returned on Oct. 23, 2003.

“Child pornography is a horrific crime against the most innocent and vulnerable of victims, but this case is especially heinous,” Graves said. “This defendant is an admitted pedophile whose criminal behavior justifies a harsh sentence. We will ask the court for a prison term longer than what is provided under the federal sentencing guidelines.”

According to Graves, federal investigators discovered more than 7,000 images of child pornography on computer hard drives that were seized by agents while executing a search warrant at **Schafer’s** residence on March 27, 2003. “We believe there were even more images of child porn on those hard drives,” Graves said, “but after investigators found in excess of 7,000 images, they quit counting.”

Investigators also discovered 17 movie files that were downloaded to **Schafer’s** computer in February 2003. Federal agents also seized numerous photographs, magazines, floppy disks and CD-ROMS containing child pornography from **Schafer’s** home.

Graves said that **Schafer** molested his own daughters when they were between 6 and 10 years old and developed those photos using his own photographic darkroom. “Those daughters are now adults, and the statute of limitations for filing federal charges has expired,” Graves said. “But we will ask the court to consider this long-standing pattern of egregious criminal behavior

in determining an appropriate sentence in this case.”

By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Schafer** admitted that he e-mailed a visual depiction of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct on Aug. 5, 2000. **Schafer** also admitted that he used his computer to download a visual depiction of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct on Feb. 4, 2003. **Schafer** admitted that he was in possession of one or more films, videotapes, and other matter which contained visual depictions of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct on March 28, 2003.

The federal indictment also contains a forfeiture count, which requires **Schafer** to forfeit to the United States any film, videotape, or other matter containing child pornography, as well as any property used to commit the offenses alleged in Counts One, Two and Three, including:

- \* Two computers along with six hard drives and other hardware and software
- \* Two scanners
- \* A motion picture projector
- \* Numerous floppy disks containing visual depictions of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David M. Ketchmark. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)